

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1470

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0083

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTATIONS: FEB 26 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE NINETY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTATIONS ON FEBRUARY 26, FRG REP (BEHREND) AND GDR REP (OESER) WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS. FRG REP'S STATEMENT IS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. OESER MADE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS IN HIS STATEMENT:

A. THE WEST SHOULD ACCEPT THE NEW EASTERN REDUCTION PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 19.

B. THIS PROPOSAL INCORPORATES A SIGNIFICANT WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN TWO-PHASE PLAN. ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE USA ARE TO WORK OUT EQUIVALENT REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS CONCRETELY, PERMITTING THEIR
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IMPLEMENTATION TO START RIGHT AWAY. AS REGARDS ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN

THE FIRST STAGE, THE REMAINING PARTICIPANT STATES ONLY
HAVE TO OBLIGATE THEMSELVES IN THE FIRST STAGE
NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.

C. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS WILLINGNESS TO BE ACCOMMODATING, THE
EAST EXPECTS THAT THE WEST EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA ALSO
COMMIT THEMSELVES, TOGETHER WITH THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANT
STATES, TO REDUCE THEIR ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN 1977-78
SO THAT, AS THE RESULT OF THE TWO STAGES, THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY
EQUAL PERCENTAGES.

D. THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH, INCLUDING THE DECEMBER 16
NUCLEAR REDUCTION OFFER, IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE AGREED
PRINCIPLES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IS AIMED AT ALTERING THE
EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES TO GIVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES
TO THE WEST.

E. THE EAST HAS CONSIDERED THE NEW ELEMENT CONTAINED IN THE NATO
PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER 16, NAMELY, THE READINESS EXPRESSED FOR THE
FIRST TIME TO INCLUDE SOME NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN REDUCTIONS.
THE EAST VIEWS THIS AS PROOF OF THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS POSITION
OF PRINCIPLE THAT AN EFFECTIVE REDUCTION APPROACH REQUIRES THE
INCLUSION OF ARMAMENTS, AND ESPECIALLY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN
REDUCTIONS. THE NEW PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS
OF THE SAME AMOUNT OF SIMILAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, AND ASSUMES
THAT NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS PROPOSED FOR REDUCTION ARE
TO BE REDUCED TOGETHER WITH THEIR ATOMIC WARHEADS.

G. A MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH AS PROPOSED BY THE WEST WOULD
NOT ENSURE AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION.

H. BESIDES, SUCH AN ARTIFICIALLY SELECTIVE APPROACH WOULD
CREATE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE NATO STATES IN CENTRAL
EUROPE BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CONTINUE UNIMPEDED
REARMAMENT IN CERTAIN SECTORS.

I. THE REDUCTION OF SUCH IMPORTANT WEAPONS SYSTEMS AS
NUCLEAR WEAPON DELIVERY SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT BE A
"ONE-TIME ACTION."
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J. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO
UNDERTAKE REDUCTIONS OF OVER 15 PERCENT OF THEIR ARMED FORCES
AND ARMAMENTS ON A MUTUAL AND EQUIVALENT BASIS.

K. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ABANDON THEIR UNREALISTIC
POSITIONS AND RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE EASTERN PROPOSALS.

2. FULL TEXT OF GDR REP'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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